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Understanding Alabama's Fossil Fuel Resources--Part II

By Annette Jones Watters

(Editor's Note: This is the second installment on the state's fossil fuel resources by Mrs. Watters. The first part appeared in the April issue and concerned Alabama's coal and coke resources.)

Most Americans know that oil is sold by the barrel and that motor gasoline is refined from crude oil. Yet many are unaware that a barrel of crude oil contains forty-two gallons, and that gasoline is only one of a number of products refined from it. In 1982 one barrel of crude oil typically yielded:

Product	Gallons	% of Barrel
Finished Motor Gasoline	19.40	46.2
Finished Aviation Gasoline	.08	.2
Liquefied Gases and Ethane	.92	2.2
Naphtha-Type Jet Fuel	.71	1.7
Kerosene-Type Jet Fuel	2.69	6.4
Kerosene	.38	.9
Distillate Fuel Oil	9.03	21.5
Residual Fuel Oil	3.70	8.8
Petrochemical Feedstocks	1.51	3.6
Special Naphthas	.17	.4
Lubricants	.50	1.2
Wax	.04	.1
Petroleum Coke	1.43	3.4
Asphalt and Road Oil	1.13	2.7
Still Gas	1.85	4.4
Miscellaneous	.29	.7
Yield	43.83	104.4
Processing Gain	(1.83)	(4.4)
Total Crude Oil	42.00	100.0

Still gas is any form or mixture of gas produced in refineries by distillation, cracking, reforming, and other processes. The principal constituents are methane, ethane, propane, propylene, butanes, butylene, etc. This definition excludes still gas as petrochemical feedstocks. Processing gain is the volumetric amount by which total output is greater than input. This difference is due to the processing of crude oil into products which, in total, have a lower specific gravity than the crude oil processed. Therefore, in terms of volume (barrels), the total output of products is greater than input.

Not all commodities come in forty-two-gallon barrels. For example, whiskey, flour, and apples are each transported in barrels of different sizes. The sizes of each barrel type were determined by the barrel makers, or coopers, who originally constructed them. When oil was first brought to the market in commercial quantities, it was shipped in whatever barrels were available. Price was set by the barrel, no matter what volume of oil the barrel contained. In 1866 the container for oil was universally standardized as the herring barrel, containing forty-two gallons. Legend has it that this number originated with King Edward IV of Norway, in the 15th century, when he decreed the standard volume of a herring barrel to be forty-two gallons.

Oil and gas activity in Alabama has substantially increased in recent years. In 1970 there were only 564 producing wells and 24 oil and gas fields and pools in the state. By 1982 the number of producing wells had increased to 1,214 and the number of fields and pools had increased to 155. Ninety-seven of these fields and pools are in the Black Warrior Basin region and the remaining 58 are in the Southwest Alabama region. Nineteen new oil and gas

fields and pools were established in 1982: 11 in the Black Warrior Basin region and 8 in the Southwest Alabama region. Mobile and Escambia counties are the heaviest producing counties in the state. Washington, Choctaw, Clarke, Monroe, and Baldwin counties make up the rest of the producing counties in the Southwest Alabama region. Lamar, Fayette, Walker, and Tuscaloosa counties have producing areas in the Black Warrior Basin region.

Some natural gas is found associated with crude oil. Natural gas is primarily methane, which is a colorless, odorless, flammable gas whose molecules consist of one carbon atom and four hydrogen atoms. It is found in underground porous rock formations surrounded by nonporous rock, thus trapping the gas. Crude oil, condensate, and natural gas occur in similar geological formations. The gas flows to the surface through drilled wells and is then treated to remove extraneous gases, if necessary. Condensate is so named because it is a gas at underground temperatures and pressures, but a liquid at the surface.

Natural gas is measured in cubic feet (at 14.73 pounds per square inch absolute pressure and 60 degrees Fahrenheit). The heat content of a cubic foot of natural gas may vary because of the presence of nonmethane gases. Usually a cubic foot of natural gas contains about 1,027 British thermal units.

Natural gas is transported from the processing plant to the consumer through a system of welded steel pipes. The United States has more than 260,000 miles of natural gas pipeline, mostly underground. Compressor stations located at intervals along the pipeline maintain a pressure high enough to keep the gas moving. Ships can also be used to transport natural gas if the gas is first cooled to minus 260 degrees Fahrenheit. This changes it to a liquid that takes up only 1/600 of the space compared to the gas. The liquefied natural gas can be loaded onto a specially insulated tanker and carried across the ocean.

In 1970 Alabama ranked twenty-first in the nation in the production of liquid hydrocarbons (oil and condensate) and twenty-sixth in the production of natural gas. By 1982 the state ranked eighteenth in the production of liquid hydrocarbons and sixteenth in the production of natural gas. In 1970 there were only 564 producing wells in the state: 552 oil wells, 2 gas wells, and 10 gas-condensate wells. By 1982 there were 1,214 producing wells statewide: 723 oil wells, 397 gas wells, and 94 gas-condensate wells. Production for the state in 1970 was approximately 7.3 million barrels of oil, 20 thousand barrels of condensate and 900 million cubic feet of gas. By 1982 Alabama's oil production was 8.1 million barrels, down 9 percent from 1981. Condensate production for the year was 11.9 million barrels, up 1 percent from 1981. Gas production in 1982 was 134.0 billion cubic feet, up 5 percent from 1981.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration estimates the proven reserves in Alabama, as of December 31, 1981, to be 55 million barrels of oil, 192 million barrels of condensate, and 683 billion cubic feet of gas. Alabama's annual production of natural gas and condensate continues to increase despite a national trend of declining domestic production.

Sources: Geological Survey of Alabama for the State Oil and Gas Board; *The Petroleum Industry in Alabama 1982* University, Alabama 1983
U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration, *Energy Fact Sheet*, nos. 9 and 26
Encyclopedia of Chemical Technology, Vol. 4, Interscience Encyclopedia, Inc.

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS FOR ALABAMA

Type of Activity	Annual		1983												1984
	1982	1983	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
INDUSTRIAL															
Bituminous coal production ¹ (1,000 net tons)	25,869	23,071	1,965	1,858	1,914	2,017	1,907	1,759	1,667	2,004	1,937	2,150	2,044	1,849	2,181
Natural gas production (1,000,000 cu. ft.)	133,892	126,576	12,165	10,832	11,423	11,429	10,399	10,301	10,189	10,541	9,028	10,409	10,453	9,407	10,962
Cotton consumption (1,000 lbs.)	320,808	360,820	25,851	29,560	33,442	29,988	31,724	32,494	24,507	33,557	31,394	30,597	29,370	28,336	32,516
Crude oil and condensate production ² (1,000 barrels)	20,011	18,708	1,732	1,511	1,603	1,561	1,564	1,525	1,596	1,592	1,435	1,522	1,569	1,499	1,624
Electric energy consumption, industrial purposes (1,000,000 kWh)	21,431	21,020	1,571	1,649	1,621	1,702	1,753	1,797	1,756	1,963	1,892	1,818	1,799	1,698	1,827
Pulp, paper, and paperboard production (1,000 net tons)	5,419	6,166	484	424	517	506	556	554	561	505	511	559	510	479	532
CONSTRUCTION															
Building contracts awarded, new and alterations combined ³ (\$1,000)	2,011,200	2,785,200	143,300	141,600	251,100	225,500	293,500	327,100	160,400	219,900	242,200	278,600	291,000	211,000	228,400
Residential	847,200	1,301,000	75,600	69,700	103,500	107,700	127,400	125,700	100,500	101,300	162,200	138,100	97,300	96,000	98,300
Nonresidential	660,000	1,026,400	50,500	53,600	91,200	74,400	128,000	111,900	45,300	73,300	45,400	108,000	162,000	82,800	112,300
Public works and utilities	504,000	456,900	17,200	18,300	56,500	43,100	41,700	89,300	14,700	45,400	34,400	32,700	31,400	32,200	17,700
Cement consumption (1,000 net tons)	928	1,086	90	62	92	85	85	116	102	116	101	108	92	67	68
FINANCE															
Savings in savings and loan associations* (\$1,000,000)	4,598	5,263	4,668	4,724	4,830	4,951	4,993	5,063	5,096	5,123	5,158	5,191	5,204	5,263	5,289
Tax collections (\$1,000)	2,112,332	2,288,165	177,787	174,477	189,042	192,932	218,607	189,144	173,150	191,429	219,553	186,326	221,579	154,139	205,929
Franchise	52,016	52,214	443	861	15,688	7,306	1,145	2,777	7,524	2,253	7,300	4,430	1,980	507	302
Gasoline (excl. aviation)	197,894	199,587	17,274	15,813	14,001	17,681	16,303	17,158	17,252	17,182	17,874	16,536	16,469	16,044	18,417
Income	765,160	815,838	45,667	79,861	76,745	49,511	108,834	80,633	36,785	81,341	81,667	38,160	83,559	53,073	49,125
Motor fuels	41,505	45,027	2,967	3,658	3,049	3,763	3,901	3,136	3,206	4,195	3,383	4,189	5,673	3,906	3,415
Oil gas privilege	36,891	89,645	4,238	2,964	4,871	5,691	6,447	6,193	5,131	5,298	5,168	5,106	34,115	4,424	5,742
Oil gas production	18,510	17,290	1,504	1,485	1,808	1,362	1,823	1,541	1,319	1,319	1,331	1,314	1,339	1,146	1,465
Sales	562,208	609,132	56,835	43,331	44,491	48,128	52,546	52,347	51,650	52,961	51,526	51,888	53,500	49,930	67,569
2 1/2 % Gross receipts	44,104	46,185	10,560	135	147	10,636	110	48	10,738	61	3,548	10,134	63	6	13,504
TVA electric	35,999	31,290	2,831	2,831	2,831	5,661	2,831	2,831	2,831	2,831	2,911	2,867	2,867	2,867	5,734
Tobacco	70,885	68,915	6,864	4,692	4,881	5,411	5,599	6,536	6,035	5,426	5,906	6,430	5,454	6,081	5,485
Use	67,876	66,519	14,086	2,039	960	14,062	1,239	816	14,707	1,097	643	15,021	1,389	459	15,067
Utility	134,597	152,287	12,180	12,968	13,717	12,152	11,461	10,751	10,617	11,747	12,838	22,053	11,324	11,079	14,760
PRICES															
Consumer Price Index, U.S. ⁵ (1967 = 100)	288.8	298.4	293.1	293.2	293.4	295.5	297.1	298.1	299.3	300.3	301.8	302.6	303.1	303.5	305.2
All items	288.8	298.4	293.1	293.2	293.4	295.5	297.1	298.1	299.3	300.3	301.8	302.6	303.1	303.5	305.2
Food	285.7	291.7	288.1	289.0	290.5	291.9	292.4	292.0	292.0	292.2	292.6	292.9	292.5	293.9	293.4
Housing	314.7	323.1	317.9	318.5	318.6	320.3	321.8	323.1	324.5	324.8	326.4	326.8	327.0	327.4	329.2
Fuel and utilities	350.8	370.3	365.4	364.6	363.8	363.6	369.3	373.6	375.5	375.1	376.4	374.4	371.3	370.6	376.0
Apparel and upkeep	191.8	196.5	191.0	192.0	194.5	195.5	196.1	195.6	195.9	197.3	200.4	200.7	200.7	199.3	196.4
Transportation	291.5	298.4	293.0	289.9	287.4	292.3	296.2	298.3	300.4	302.4	303.7	305.0	306.3	306.3	306.0
Medical care	328.7	357.3	347.8	351.3	352.3	353.5	354.3	355.4	357.7	360.0	361.2	362.9	364.9	366.2	369.5
Energy	416.0	419.3	414.5	406.7	399.9	410.0	421.3	427.3	430.1	429.8	429.3	425.1	419.9	418.0	416.7
Producer Price Index, U.S. ⁶ (1967 = 100)	299.3	303.0	299.9	300.9	300.6	301.5	302.4	303.2	304.7	305.3	306.0	305.5	306.0	306.1	309.1
All commodities	299.3	303.0	299.9	300.9	300.6	301.5	302.4	303.2	304.7	305.3	306.0	305.5	306.0	306.1	309.1
Industrial commodities	312.3	315.7	313.9	313.9	313.5	312.4	313.6	315.3	316.5	317.3	317.1	318.5	318.3	318.4	319.2
Index of prices received by Alabama farmers (1977 = 100)	115.8	122.3	114.0	118.0	117.0	117.0	120.0	119.0	122.0	126.0	126.0	124.0	131.0	133.0	140.0
Purchasing power of the dollar, U.S. (1967 = \$1,000)	As measured by														
Consumer prices	346	335	341	341	341	338	337	335	334	333	331	330	330	329	328
Wholesale prices	334	330	333	332	333	333	332	331	330	328	328	327	327	327	325
LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT															
Civilian labor force (1,000 workers)	1,713.0	1,744.8	1,731.5	1,740.4	1,739.8	1,732.7	1,729.4	1,732.2	1,758.3	1,746.2	1,745.3	1,774.6	1,774.9	1,732.8	1,754.8
Unemployment	247.0	235.1	289.9	284.1	261.9	236.6	225.0	222.2	232.0	214.3	214.5	220.7	223.1	197.0	238.4
Unemployment rate	14.4	13.5	16.7	16.3	15.1	13.7	13.0	12.8	13.2	12.3	12.3	12.4	12.6	11.4	13.6
Employment	1,466.0	1,509.7	1,441.6	1,456.3	1,477.9	1,496.1	1,504.4	1,510.0	1,526.3	1,531.9	1,530.8	1,553.9	1,551.8	1,535.8	1,516.4
Nonagricultural	1,312.5	1,318.4	1,282.9	1,285.6	1,294.4	1,312.4	1,320.9	1,316.0	1,332.0	1,326.5	1,326.5	1,334.8	1,336.6	1,338.8	1,344.8
Manufacturing	337.8	338.2	323.8	326.6	329.7	334.5	337.8	340.9	337.4	344.8	345.5	346.0	346.3	345.6	344.6
Durable goods	159.1	157.6	149.2	151.2	153.4	156.1	157.3	157.6	157.9	160.9	161.1	161.9	162.6	162.2	161.9
Lumber and wood products	25.1	27.6	25.2	25.6	26.3	27.0	27.7	28.5	28.5	28.6	28.7	28.6	28.4	28.3	27.8
Stone, clay, glass products	8.6	8.7	8.0	8.3	8.5	8.8	8.8	8.9	8.9	9.0	9.0	8.8	8.7	8.6	8.6
Primary metals	29.6	24.8	25.1	25.0	24.8	25.1	25.0	24.7	24.3	24.9	24.5	24.6	24.6	24.8	25.2
Blast furn. and steel works	8.8	5.7	5.6	5.8	5.6	5.8	6.0	6.1	5.5	5.7	5.2	5.3	5.5	6.1	6.6
Iron and steel foundries	11.4	10.5	10.6	10.4	10.3	10.6	10.3	10.3	10.4	10.7	10.7	10.5	10.9	10.0	10.0
Fabricated metals	22.8	21.7	21.1	20.7	21.3	21.4	21.5	21.4	21.7	21.9	22.0	22.2	22.4	22.4	22.0
Machinery (excl. electrical)	177.6	13.9	14.2	14.3	14.6	14.7	15.0	14.9	15.1	15.1	15.2	15.3	15.3	15.3	15.4
Electrical, electronic equip.	256.5	20.0	20.3	20.5	20.8	21.2	21.5	21.7	21.9	21.9	22.0	22.0	22.3	22.3	22.5
Transportation	22.6	21.5	20.9	21.1	21.6	21.4	21.2	19.9	20.2	21.8	22.0	22.6	22.7	22.4	22.5
Other durable goods	16.0	17.2	15.0	16.0	16.1	17.0	17.2	17.7	17.7	17.7	17.8	17.9	18.2	18.1	17.9
Nondurable goods	178.8	180.6	174.6	175.4	176.3	178.4	180.5	183.3	179.5	183.9	184.4	184.1	183.7	183.4	182.7
Food	26.5	26.9	26.2	26.1	26.3	26.5	26.8	27.2	27.3	27.4	27.4	27.5	27.2	27.1	26.9
Textile mill products	38.8	39.1	37.8	37.7	37.8	38.7	38.8	39.6	37.6	39.6	40.2	40.3	40.3	40.4	40.4
Apparel	53.0	54.3	51.9	52.7	52.5	53.0	54.4	55.6	53.8	55.4	56.0	55.5	55.4	55.1	54.4
Paper and allied products	21.0	21.4	21.0	20.8	21.1	21.2	21.4	21.8	21.9	22.1	21.5	21.4	21.4	21.3	21.3
Printing and publishing	10.2	10.3	10.2	10.2	10.3	10.3	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.3	10.3	10.3	10.5	10.6
Chemicals and allied products	13.1	11.8	12.0	11.9	11.9	11.8	11.8	11.5	11.8	11.8	11.8	11.9	11.8	11.8	11.9

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS FOR ALABAMA—CONTINUED

Type of Activity	Annual		1983												1984
	1982	1983	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT—CONT.															
Other employment activity															
State Employment Service (number)															
Job applications	176,752	207,309	15,331	14,996	18,927	18,139	18,495	21,778	20,987	19,505	17,884	14,485	14,784	11,998	17,938
Nonagricultural placements	66,990	91,100	4,253	4,469	6,039	7,233	6,942	10,753	15,126	10,484	7,499	7,117	6,071	5,114	5,741
Unemployment compensation															
Initial benefit claims (number)	632,290	428,181	77,765	35,542	36,556	30,468	26,892	25,293	49,017	29,803	24,506	27,873	28,728	35,738	75,004
Payments (\$1,000)	233,984	191,868	23,232	20,554	21,604	16,669	14,783	14,873	13,217	15,186	13,556	11,856	12,540	13,999	18,452
County data (civilian labor force and unemployment rate)															
Autauga	15,380	15,780	15,730	15,690	15,550	15,560	15,090	15,030	15,090	15,030	15,200	15,460	15,580	15,400	15,530
Baldwin	14.7	14.1	19.4	18.0	16.5	16.2	13.2	12.9	12.0	11.3	12.3	12.5	13.0	12.0	12.7
Barbour	33,640	33,830	34,080	34,090	34,000	33,750	33,700	34,010	34,790	34,140	33,790	34,650	35,000	34,990	34,310
Bibb	12.0	12.3	14.3	14.1	12.7	11.5	11.4	10.5	11.6	10.8	11.5	11.5	12.2	12.6	14.0
Blount	11,410	11,980	11,250	11,300	11,410	11,500	11,380	11,270	11,590	11,550	11,580	11,890	11,690	11,480	11,610
Bullock	16.4	13.1	17.4	16.4	15.2	13.9	12.3	12.4	12.8	12.7	11.6	11.7	12.1	11.9	13.0
Bibb	5,640	5,940	5,880	5,840	5,860	5,750	5,670	5,720	5,750	5,240	5,550	5,600	5,680	5,630	6,040
Blount	22.9	19.6	27.1	26.6	23.8	20.5	18.4	17.3	16.8	16.4	18.9	16.4	17.2	20.0	25.3
Calhoun	14,100	13,520	13,870	14,010	14,010	14,010	13,850	13,570	13,620	13,400	13,580	13,900	13,460	13,320	12,870
Bullock	19.7	18.1	23.0	21.3	18.9	17.5	17.2	17.2	17.6	15.2	15.3	14.9	15.9	14.9	17.1
Butler	4,310	4,530	4,110	4,140	4,160	4,240	4,360	4,360	4,510	4,510	4,670	4,820	4,700	4,470	4,230
Butler	18.5	17.2	21.2	20.5	18.6	15.5	14.6	16.9	19.2	18.4	15.6	15.3	16.4	16.6	16.1
Calhoun	10,020	9,900	9,770	9,810	9,970	9,700	9,750	9,740	9,930	9,820	9,880	10,300	10,090	9,900	9,900
Chambers	20.1	17.3	21.9	21.1	21.2	17.2	16.5	16.7	16.5	15.3	14.3	16.0	14.5	12.9	16.7
Cherokee	45,810	46,560	45,900	46,570	46,580	45,800	45,870	46,230	46,920	46,850	46,420	47,190	47,080	47,500	47,170
Cherokee	15.0	13.1	15.2	15.6	14.3	12.7	12.7	12.2	12.2	11.5	11.1	12.2	11.7	12.1	12.9
Cherokee	16,170	16,920	16,500	16,400	16,360	16,360	16,330	16,600	16,920	16,820	16,470	16,890	16,830	16,780	16,760
Cherokee	11.4	9.8	12.8	11.4	10.1	9.2	9.0	9.5	10.6	9.4	8.1	9.3	9.1	8.5	8.8
Chilton	11,300	11,400	10,930	10,820	10,810	11,180	11,340	11,050	10,710	10,550	11,390	11,620	11,430	11,420	11,090
Chilton	14.9	15.4	16.7	25.2	22.3	14.7	12.1	12.4	18.5	17.2	10.4	14.4	11.4	12.4	14.5
Chocoma	13,480	15,420	14,200	14,130	14,140	14,200	14,260	13,920	14,190	14,240	14,320	14,680	14,630	14,470	15,400
Chocoma	15.6	13.3	20.0	18.6	16.1	14.5	13.9	12.6	11.9	11.7	11.8	11.7	12.3	12.1	12.7
Chocoma	5,230	5,560	5,380	5,430	5,440	5,590	5,580	5,580	5,870	5,660	5,540	5,630	5,610	5,560	5,610
Clarke	15.4	15.2	18.9	16.2	14.3	15.5	15.6	14.8	17.3	13.8	13.0	13.1	12.3	14.0	15.2
Clarke	10,470	10,810	10,710	10,970	10,940	10,590	10,550	10,990	10,940	10,750	10,620	10,790	10,850	10,800	10,870
Clay	15.7	16.2	18.3	19.2	17.9	15.9	15.7	16.9	15.7	14.0	13.6	13.8	14.6	14.9	15.9
Clay	7,460	7,520	7,590	7,550	7,660	7,670	7,760	7,760	7,890	7,780	7,960	8,060	8,110	8,000	7,660
Cleburne	13.4	13.8	17.0	14.3	13.0	12.1	13.9	13.5	15.5	11.7	11.5	11.5	11.9	11.2	12.3
Cleburne	5,080	5,210	5,170	5,190	5,180	5,170	5,160	5,080	5,090	5,010	5,190	5,240	5,220	5,200	5,090
Coffee	14.5	12.5	16.5	16.0	13.9	15.3	12.3	12.3	9.8	9.1	10.3	10.2	10.5	10.5	11.2
Coffee	19,490	20,040	20,160	20,370	20,310	20,320	20,560	20,220	20,480	20,600	20,810	20,960	20,840	20,660	19,430
Colbert	11.8	10.8	14.0	13.2	12.4	10.6	10.0	9.2	9.7	9.2	8.9	8.9	9.5	10.2	10.2
Colbert	23,540	24,050	23,980	24,160	24,310	24,010	23,620	23,540	23,980	23,910	23,770	24,110	24,170	24,290	23,760
Conecuh	19.0	18.5	22.1	21.9	21.1	19.5	17.5	16.7	17.3	16.6	16.5	16.5	16.4	16.6	19.0
Conecuh	6,740	7,040	6,570	6,650	6,910	6,790	6,790	6,790	6,890	6,790	6,890	6,900	6,940	7,060	7,050
Coosa	14.0	12.7	13.0	13.2	14.9	13.2	12.1	11.6	11.6	10.9	12.8	12.2	13.2	15.0	13.7
Coosa	5,640	5,570	5,620	5,580	5,580	5,630	5,770	5,490	5,710	5,630	5,770	5,800	5,840	5,780	5,510
Covington	10.7	10.3	12.8	12.0	11.1	10.5	10.6	9.6	10.5	8.9	8.1	8.0	8.7	8.3	9.0
Covington	15,440	16,340	15,630	15,890	15,890	16,110	16,080	16,040	16,370	16,450	16,490	16,550	16,670	16,410	16,280
Crenshaw	13.7	12.3	14.6	14.5	12.9	11.6	10.7	10.0	14.3	12.2	11.5	10.9	12.1	12.3	12.8
Crenshaw	6,690	7,220	6,120	6,220	6,390	6,520	6,700	6,540	6,890	6,650	6,940	7,120	6,790	6,420	6,750
Cullman	14.1	12.1	14.1	14.3	13.3	11.7	10.6	11.3	24.4	11.0	10.5	9.7	9.6	9.9	12.5
Cullman	27,480	28,710	27,790	28,600	28,380	28,420	28,500	27,940	28,360	28,030	28,660	29,430	29,070	28,370	28,430
Dale	17.1	14.7	19.8	22.4	16.9	15.0	13.9	13.2	13.5	12.0	12.3	11.8	11.9	11.6	14.2
Dale	12,290	12,980	12,800	12,980	12,920	12,970	12,930	12,810	12,900	12,710	12,650	13,070	13,060	12,860	12,760
Dallas	13.2	13.7	16.9	16.2	14.8	13.9	12.9	12.5	13.3	12.2	11.9	12.6	13.2	12.4	12.8
Dallas	23,350	23,640	23,320	23,590	23,400	23,290	23,290	23,680	24,040	23,700	23,540	23,890	24,120	23,600	23,360
DeKalb	17.6	17.5	21.4	20.6	19.1	18.8	16.5	16.1	16.7	15.6	15.7	16.0	16.5	15.8	17.0
DeKalb	28,460	29,950	29,020	29,090	29,190	29,590	29,470	29,580	30,610	30,420	30,080	30,450	30,070	29,530	29,440
Elmore	13.4	13.8	17.0	16.1	14.7	13.9	12.5	12.6	13.7	11.5	12.3	13.7	13.3	12.6	14.5
Elmore	20,280	20,770	19,830	20,060	20,370	20,210	20,280	20,250	20,240	20,270	20,120	20,410	20,380	20,110	20,170
Escambia	13.1	12.2	14.0	13.7	14.3	13.2	13.2	13.0	11.7	11.5	10.9	10.9	10.5	9.3	9.6
Escambia	16,330	17,430	16,320	16,940	16,420	16,700	16,700	16,940	17,260	16,750	16,860	17,020	17,260	17,360	17,560
Etowah	13.2	12.6	13.7	12.9	12.1	12.6	12.6	12.2	13.0	12.2	11.8	12.2	13.4	13.8	14.3
Etowah	42,740	42,450	43,240	42,920	42,810	41,730	41,800	41,220	41,920	41,800	41,460	42,230	42,510	42,320	41,660
Fayette	20.5	17.5	23.9	22.8	21.8	18.0	16.4	15.9	16.1	15.0	14.5	15.0	15.6	14.8	15.8
Fayette	9,880	10,170	9,920	10,120	10,090	10,140	10,040	10,120	10,160	10,220	10,390	10,580	10,530	10,430	10,160
Franklin	11.4	11.7	13.5	13.8	13.8	12.8	10.8	9.7	10.8	10.3	10.9	10.1	10.2	10.4	10.5
Franklin															

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS FOR ALABAMA—CONTINUED

Type of Activity	Annual		1983												1984
	1982	1983	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT—CONT															
County data (civilian labor force and unemployment rates)—continued															
Monroe	10,250	10,770	10,200	10,300	10,430	10,580	10,500	10,550	10,700	10,700	10,720	10,940	11,050	11,010	10,940
Montgomery	14.3	12.6	13.8	13.2	12.6	13.1	13.0	11.5	11.4	11.0	11.2	12.5	13.7	13.6	15.6
Morgan	89,890	92,650	88,130	89,040	89,500	88,630	88,520	89,420	90,480	90,370	90,710	92,570	93,210	92,300	92,730
Perry	10.9	10.6	12.1	11.7	11.4	10.1	9.7	10.6	10.3	9.9	10.2	10.8	11.1	10.3	10.7
Pickens	37,400	37,990	37,450	37,140	37,010	36,800	37,140	37,420	37,980	37,640	37,550	37,840	37,890	37,640	37,630
Pike	16.1	14.5	18.8	17.3	15.8	14.5	13.8	13.5	13.5	13.1	13.4	13.6	13.5	12.8	14.5
Randolph	5,200	5,860	5,630	5,580	5,680	5,660	5,800	5,800	5,920	5,910	5,890	5,980	6,000	5,960	5,840
Russell	16.9	14.8	19.7	15.5	14.2	14.0	13.2	13.7	13.1	13.0	11.9	11.8	17.0	20.5	22.4
St. Clair	7,620	7,630	7,640	7,730	7,940	7,910	7,990	7,900	7,970	7,780	7,800	7,900	7,850	7,850	7,500
Shelby	19.6	17.7	17.3	17.6	19.2	20.2	19.3	18.1	18.1	14.7	14.2	14.7	14.0	17.4	17.9
Sumter	13,230	13,770	13,520	13,720	13,740	13,760	13,960	13,760	13,920	13,820	14,070	14,590	14,390	13,400	13,360
Talladega	13.4	13.7	17.7	16.8	14.4	12.5	12.6	12.8	13.7	12.5	11.9	11.1	12.0	13.1	12.0
Tallapoosa	9,670	9,170	9,360	9,120	8,700	8,750	8,640	8,420	9,040	8,550	8,470	8,990	8,830	8,780	8,890
Tuscaloosa	21.8	17.8	25.7	22.5	18.7	17.2	18.0	16.8	24.1	16.4	13.6	13.3	14.4	15.5	18.0
Walker	18,050	18,320	18,080	18,080	17,920	17,500	17,460	17,730	17,980	18,010	17,690	17,970	18,140	18,270	19,480
Washington	16.7	13.7	17.9	17.5	15.9	14.0	13.6	11.8	12.0	11.2	12.2	12.5	12.4	12.6	17.9
Wilcox	18,970	19,350	19,410	19,620	19,560	19,230	18,970	18,770	18,870	18,870	18,970	19,120	19,420	19,710	19,310
Winston	14.7	14.2	17.8	18.0	16.9	14.9	13.8	12.2	11.2	11.1	12.7	12.4	13.5	14.3	14.0
Yavapai	29,910	30,510	30,280	30,230	30,210	29,820	30,100	29,810	30,340	30,360	30,190	30,650	30,690	30,830	30,890
Yuma	13.0	12.4	15.2	14.4	13.4	11.7	12.6	11.1	11.2	11.1	11.7	12.1	11.9	11.8	13.6
Yuma	6,970	6,990	7,150	7,150	7,250	7,240	7,340	7,410	7,470	7,350	7,280	7,460	7,490	7,150	7,060
Yuma	17.4	14.3	17.2	15.7	16.1	14.2	12.0	14.3	15.0	12.8	10.3	11.3	12.4	10.6	12.2
Yuma	30,630	32,030	31,230	31,220	30,980	30,530	30,570	30,180	30,400	30,380	30,090	30,500	30,220	30,140	31,730
Yuma	19.3	17.1	21.5	21.3	19.8	17.2	17.2	17.0	16.9	16.9	16.0	15.8	15.4	14.7	15.0
Yuma	17,250	16,580	17,330	17,240	17,360	17,070	17,110	17,650	18,230	17,810	17,550	17,840	17,920	18,070	16,850
Yuma	13.3	12.2	13.7	12.4	13.6	10.2	11.1	11.0	13.9	10.9	9.5	10.4	10.0	10.1	10.6
Yuma	55,380	56,520	56,030	56,800	56,320	55,690	55,910	54,990	55,610	55,830	55,600	56,840	57,390	57,540	56,910
Yuma	12.6	12.5	14.5	15.2	13.5	11.9	12.5	12.3	11.9	11.6	11.1	11.5	11.5	11.1	11.8
Yuma	31,720	32,980	32,420	32,690	32,500	32,360	32,330	32,080	32,690	32,580	32,450	33,470	33,570	33,440	33,440
Yuma	15.1	16.1	18.0	18.0	16.6	15.7	15.7	14.4	14.6	14.2	14.9	16.6	16.5	16.8	17.3
Yuma	6,260	6,380	6,430	6,320	6,430	6,480	6,520	6,640	6,810	6,560	6,750	6,780	6,700	6,610	6,330
Yuma	16.8	20.0	22.5	21.1	20.0	20.5	20.0	19.6	20.6	17.4	17.2	16.7	16.8	16.3	17.8
Yuma	5,170	5,860	5,410	5,420	5,440	5,410	5,290	5,220	5,280	5,210	5,360	5,500	5,410	5,280	5,340
Yuma	22.6	20.3	25.5	26.6	26.2	21.3	20.6	19.0	18.4	19.4	19.9	19.7	19.0	18.8	18.8
Yuma	8,450	9,130	8,480	8,780	8,500	8,340	8,280	8,210	8,320	8,250	8,310	8,530	8,550	8,480	9,570
Yuma	22.6	18.6	25.7	27.6	22.1	18.8	17.3	17.2	17.8	17.1	16.3	17.5	18.8	19.0	23.4
TRADE															
Foreign, through Port of Mobile															
Imports															
Value (\$1,000)	551,093	643,182	68,870	42,897	39,541	61,067	72,807	49,281	33,162	70,692	22,392	85,365	50,213	46,894	46,894
Shipping weight (1,000,000 lbs.)	8,142	6,288	447	370	308	651	560	353	343	819	430	826	757	423	423
Exports															
Value (\$1,000)	1,222,158	788,611	78,780	80,453	68,176	81,973	69,533	71,690	51,007	33,212	51,991	64,610	81,993	64,282	64,282
Shipping weight (1,000,000 lbs.)	14,577	9,496	1,133	1,057	757	1,061	888	1,150	610	344	524	547	546	868	868
Shipments by water, Port of Mobile ⁽¹⁾															
(1,000 tons)	39,655	34,916	3,030	2,695	2,574	3,193	3,051	3,268	2,560	3,013	2,812	2,948	3,118	2,653	3,017
Domestic															
Electric energy consumption, non-industrial purposes ⁽¹⁾	22,680	23,017	1,996	1,998	1,668	1,650	1,490	1,678	2,149	2,571	2,547	1,798	1,588	1,984	2,494
Gasoline sales ⁽¹⁾ (1,000 gallons)	1,840,396	1,861,406	147,757	132,674	163,666	150,978	158,764	159,700	159,303	165,359	153,217	153,174	148,354	168,460	168,460
New passenger car registrations ⁽¹⁾ (number)	100,717	122,393	8,018	8,462	9,328	9,544	11,620	10,660	11,039	10,012	11,288	10,378	10,295	11,751	10,453
Retail sales by kind of business, state totals ⁽¹⁾ (\$1,000,000)															
Food	3,634	290	290	309	323	323	336	356	338	325	325	325	325	325	325
General stores with food and gas	331	25	24	28	29	29	32	30	29	28	28	28	28	28	28
General merchandise	2,292	123	150	192	204	171	163	190	198	194	194	194	194	194	194
Apparel	499	33	32	46	45	44	42	41	47	47	47	47	47	47	47
Furniture, furnishings, etc.	534	40	41	49	49	53	56	56	60	58	58	58	58	58	58
Automotive	2,690	208	223	285	294	313	336	343	358	349	349	349	349	349	349
Gasoline service stations	1,342	85	81	92	90	101	94	88	90	85	85	85	85	85	85
Lumber and building materials	778	54	56	73	76	90	97	98	114	111	111	111	111	111	111
Hardware and farm implements	351	23	24	34	34	39	42	41	42	42	42	42	42	42	42
Eating places	1,112	82	87	101	99	104	104	110	111	107	107	107	107	107	107
Drug stores	536	37	39	39	40	42	36	38	39	37	37	37	37	37	37
All other retail	2,433	161	163	203	201	235	238	216	235	232	232	232	232	232	232
Total sales by retail concerns	16,530	1,161	1,209	1,450	1,483	1,542	1,575	1,607	1,663	1,615	1,615	1,615	1,615	1,615	1,615
Nonretail and unclassified concerns	4,749	336	321	392	357	394	403	377	392	415	415	415	415	415	415
Total all sales at retail	21,279	1,497	1,530	1,842	1,841	1,936	1,978	1,985	2,055	2,030	2,030	2,030	2,030	2,030	2,030
Retail sales, Metropolitan Statistical Areas and counties ⁽¹⁾ (\$1,000)															
MSAs															
Anniston	432,037	30,099	31,094	37,560	37,700	39,448	42,513	49,304	51,054	48,924	48,924	48,924	48,924	48,924	48,924
Birmingham	5,604,600	405,797	407,194	498,000	503,026	523,112	542,315	543,354	577,490	602,301	602,301	602,301	602,301	602,301	602,301
Dothan	34,813	35,858	44,378	47,505	48,245	50,479	54,190	63,605	65,598	63,784	63,784	63,784	63,784	63,784	63,784
Florence	395,827	28,086	27,916	33,235	33,730	37,465	40,473	48,920	51,281	48,586	48,586	48,586	48,586	48,586	48,586
Gadsden	1,064,650	63,129	64,696	75,670	75,539	85,299	91,227	108,278	114,261	111,714	111,714	111,714	111,714	111,714	111,714
Huntsville	2,131,321	151,625	148,825	178,187	172,423	186,646	196,871	233,943	240,731	217,431	217,431	217,431	217,431	217,431	217,431
Mobile	1,224,760	90,567	93,802	110,391	113,913	118,305	127,634	144,442	152,919	147,640	147,640	147,640	147,640	147,640	147,640
Montgomery	552,075	43,285	41,589	49,621	51,079	52,860	57,120	63,538	68,343	67,387	67,387	67,387	67,387	67,387	67,387
Tuscalo															

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS FOR ALABAMA—CONTINUED

Type of Activity	Annual		1983												1984
	1982	1983	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
TRADE—CONTINUED															
Retail sales, MSAs and counties—continued															
Counties—continued															
Colbert	296,642	15,668	15,668	15,934	19,077	21,312	21,378	22,668	26,623	27,641	27,485				
Conecuh	34,109	2,310	2,310	2,632	2,966	3,327	3,317	3,364	3,912	4,025	3,911				
Coosa	20,855	1,234	1,234	1,343	1,438	1,515	1,561	1,563	1,528	1,654	1,500				
Covington	140,600	9,874	10,147	12,394	13,203	13,898	14,070	15,396	16,540	15,128					
Crenshaw	32,420	2,407	2,622	2,837	3,214	3,370	3,430	3,263	3,237	3,072					
Cullman	244,962	18,596	17,214	21,470	22,800	24,572	25,274	26,934	28,444	28,708					
Dale	97,392	6,939	6,939	8,050	8,450	9,203	9,138	10,769	10,809	10,090					
Dallas	188,352	12,389	12,311	14,659	15,999	17,506	17,583	20,057	21,239	19,629					
DeKalb	171,545	10,222	10,360	12,382	13,231	14,017	15,364	17,373	17,434	16,975					
Elmore	82,282	5,690	6,260	6,653	7,370	7,784	7,758	10,675	10,428	9,817					
Escambia	133,511	9,786	9,805	12,191	12,100	12,990	13,067	14,431	15,013	13,897					
Etowah	395,827	28,086	27,916	33,235	33,730	37,465	40,473	48,920	51,281	48,586					
Fayette	85,349	6,419	6,144	7,627	7,436	7,809	8,057	7,172	7,453	7,199					
Franklin	84,064	6,028	6,209	7,618	8,320	8,811	9,024	11,022	10,532	10,287					
Geneva	146,372	12,736	11,895	12,848	13,497	14,304	13,751	14,083	14,425	13,682					
Greene	21,917	1,812	1,995	1,803	1,722	2,254	2,167	2,334	2,029	2,103					
Hale	35,115	2,409	2,631	2,988	3,182	3,330	3,849	4,212	3,985	4,090					
Henry	40,210	2,779	2,767	3,403	3,884	3,994	3,887	3,870	3,528	3,890					
Houston	430,944	33,510	33,236	40,242	42,059	42,876	44,750	53,391	56,468	52,535					
Jackson	147,971	9,432	10,571	12,836	12,510	13,828	14,506	16,639	16,577	16,068					
Jefferson	4,911,771	350,817	352,555	431,552	435,065	448,400	466,509	464,146	497,248	522,309					
Lamar	37,354	2,807	2,537	2,923	3,168	3,481	3,490	3,662	3,993	3,912					
Lauderdale	275,063	19,145	19,924	25,290	26,193	28,867	27,811	36,982	37,957	36,299					
Lawrence	64,612	4,511	4,057	4,982	5,384	5,767	6,230	7,017	7,036	6,692					
Lee	291,706	20,468	22,057	26,366	26,569	28,745	30,099	32,450	33,684	35,160					
Limestone	148,159	9,995	9,417	12,346	12,732	12,806	14,140	16,625	16,602	16,335					
Lowndes	23,153	1,822	1,557	1,793	1,997	2,128	1,871	2,232	1,766	1,870					
Macon	42,695	2,754	2,950	3,389	3,655	4,030	4,098	5,012	4,782	4,431					
Madison	859,741	63,129	64,696	75,670	75,539	85,289	91,227	108,278	114,261	111,714					
Marengo	87,042	5,683	5,672	6,959	7,434	6,553	6,554	7,458	7,137	6,791					
Marion	69,720	5,540	5,129	6,256	6,829	7,422	7,899	9,459	9,159	9,372					
Marshall	267,987	19,349	20,189	24,855	26,811	28,878	29,248	35,289	37,497	36,544					
Mobile	1,764,606	130,402	127,015	150,914	144,992	155,972	163,485	194,317	202,040	183,766					
Monroe	103,747	7,364	7,834	9,431	9,174	9,382	9,504	10,284	11,549	10,899					
Montgomery	1,034,571	77,057	79,254	93,844	96,882	100,133	108,890	123,828	132,814	128,707					
Morgan	476,700	34,484	35,473	46,673	46,783	51,232	47,039	51,489	55,483	54,013					
Perry	28,382	1,949	1,974	2,163	2,386	2,503	2,792	2,568	2,541	2,863					
Pickens	51,737	3,423	3,282	4,006	4,724	5,122	4,766	4,985	4,943	4,439					
Pike	83,838	5,631	6,066	7,689	8,420	9,436	8,411	9,542	10,582	9,512					
Randolph	54,925	4,376	4,483	5,306	5,139	5,309	5,249	5,740	5,756	6,158					
Russell	95,486	6,991	7,378	8,713	9,176	9,850	9,871	11,376	12,346	11,142					
St. Clair	105,453	8,139	9,021	10,906	12,113	13,225	13,874	15,143	14,439	14,077					
Shelby	361,472	19,238	18,370	23,908	25,959	27,540	28,824	26,130	27,337	27,242					
Sumter	34,465	2,474	2,552	2,844	2,851	2,920	3,004	3,213	3,356	3,143					
Talladega	219,173	16,832	16,044	19,138	19,300	22,703	21,401	25,541	25,019	24,383					
Tallapoosa	122,749	9,348	9,634	11,180	12,046	12,721	12,832	14,060	13,709	13,781					
Tuscaloosa	552,075	43,285	41,589	49,621	51,079	52,860	57,120	63,538	68,343	67,387					
Walker	296,965	21,816	21,432	24,830	25,490	26,931	25,469	29,604	29,709	29,876					
Washington	29,920	2,215	2,029	2,691	2,253	2,422	2,302	2,584	2,347	2,352					
Wilcox	35,627	2,586	2,727	3,121	3,083	3,145	3,134	3,444	3,496	3,324					
Winston	64,854	4,440	4,495	5,502	5,864	6,102	6,664	7,329	7,925	7,166					
Statewide ¹	4,185,970	267,551	284,396	363,006	325,161	332,174	315,325	445,084	436,259	445,200					
BUILDING ACTIVITY ²															
Alabama total															
Building permits (\$1,000)															
Total	712,696	1,079,085	53,990	51,306	84,232	72,068	108,222	72,677	93,959	120,559	96,165	86,676	162,881	76,349	65,449
Residential	237,082	449,881	25,652	25,793	43,724	40,009	47,803	32,005	39,580	47,066	34,835	43,819	42,063	27,533	24,927
Nonresidential	300,343	366,127	16,128	16,272	20,153	17,120	34,301	20,565	28,714	35,834	29,816	19,696	95,659	33,868	22,711
In selected cities															
Anniston															
Building permits (\$1,000)															
Total	5,965	8,848	439	445	674	791	850	905	826	895	794	818	718	693	595
Residential	2,700	3,593	299	271	417	312	341	346	306	309	263	299	261	231	247
Nonresidential	442	832				112	96	112	92	124	106	109	101	81	75
Birmingham															
Building permits (\$1,000)															
Total	109,048	213,343	10,220	2,369	11,394	5,671	23,569	8,012	7,729	14,059	30,767	9,844	83,104	6,605	5,689
Residential	13,914	31,921	496	690	7,607	977	9,643	1,221	1,378	1,317	2,529	4,275	904	885	1,100
Nonresidential	61,839	108,370	7,013	1,133	1,580	1,098	2,177	1,911	1,855	7,416	12,498	767	70,397	536	985
Decatur															
Building permits (\$1,000)															
Total	8,551	14,095	648	1,826	1,129	1,073	1,154	1,235	1,167	1,367	1,424	1,278	1,004	789	912
Residential	2,937	7,340	230	152	307	713	722	770	741	918	985	862	663	267	673
Nonresidential	3,812	2,156	272	70	603	123	163	177	150	155	156	140	116	32	73
Dothan															
Building permits (\$1,000)															
Total	28,821	18,943	1,299	841	2,162	899	895	1,073	1,398	1,340	700	3,402	2,191	2,952	1,075
Residential	5,626	7,760	458	450	844	568	326	475	360	366	316	2,412	805	351	444
Nonresidential	9,720	6,339	345	88	973	230	59	176	468	319	40	367	1,127	2,146	457

GENERAL BUSINESS INDICATORS FOR ALABAMA

Type of Activity	Annual		1983												1984
	1982	1983	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.
BUILDING ACTIVITY															
-CONTINUED															
Montgomery															
Building permits (\$1,000)															
Total	52,352	76,984	4,057	3,297	7,892	10,648	7,877	6,777	6,275	6,829	6,315	6,326	5,764	5,127	14,164
Residential	15,363	32,619	2,492	2,061	4,125	4,797	3,407	2,568	2,473	2,354	2,081	2,108	2,278	1,874	2,436
Nonresidential	22,178	28,264	487	489	1,940	5,301	3,265	2,542	2,205	2,762	2,652	2,596	2,170	1,856	9,934
Quad Cities															
Building permits (\$1,000)															
Total	18,563	12,978	798	858	977	718	1,247	1,244	1,612	1,361	1,250	852	1,860	699	2,642
Residential	7,481	6,391	668	502	711	341	451	640	473	513	623	428	874	166	480
Nonresidential	5,722	3,506	56	340	45	246	176	261	737	705	380	337	123	100	207
Selma															
Building permits (\$1,000)															
Total	2,757	4,197	248	1,049	105	184	635	115	336	103	901	67	98	356	1,826
Residential	987	357	8		25	63	125	30		20			65	20	
Nonresidential	1,739	798		18	22	19	384	10	275	20	18	30	1		3
Tuscaloosa															
Building permits (\$1,000)															
Total	21,418	30,159	2,323	1,869	3,672	1,458	3,023	3,600	2,862	3,340	3,777	1,814	1,809	613	1,505
Residential	6,592	14,849	590	1,402	2,697	850	1,674	1,205	2,338	1,194	1,378	396	717	407	1,032
Nonresidential	8,408	6,227	1,509	209	84	187	424	569	187	1,221	711	527	599	3	132

NOTE: Throughout this table, details do not necessarily add to totals due to rounding. Estimated total for calendar month based on adjustment of weekly data. Individual months may not add to annual totals due to late revisions in annual data. These data may not be reused in any manner without the express permission of F. W. Dodge Div., McGraw-Hill Information Co. End-of-month balance.

Beginning January 1978, the Consumer Price Index consists of "All Urban Consumers." Prior to that date, it included only "Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers." Historical data will not be available due to the change in coverage. No "Energy" data are available prior to 1978, and "Housing" data prior to January 1978 are not comparable to the new "Housing" series due to a change in definition.

These data were previously presented as the "Wholesale Price Index." The new title more accurately reflects the coverage of the data.

Civilian labor force, unemployment, and total employment are adjusted by place of residence, and total nonagricultural employment and its components are by place of work. All monthly data are adjusted to a March benchmark of the previous year.

Includes both inbound and outbound shipments by water moving through private facilities as well as through the Alabama State Docks; excludes tonnage for military installations.

Excludes sales to federal government. These data may not be reused in any manner without the express permission of R. L. Polk and Company.

Retail sales data represent sales at retail as reported to the Alabama Department of Revenue under the definition of the Alabama Sales Tax Law. Total sales figures include sales at retail by wholesalers and other nonretail firms as well as retail concerns. Sales at retail thus defined should not be confused with all sales (including nonretail sales) by retail concerns as reported in the Census of Retail Trade.

Monthly sales figures are preliminary and subject to revision on a continuing basis. Sales figure for the two latest months are normally low because they do not yet include data from late reporters. Retail sales historical data prior to 1977 are not available for the new series. Birmingham and Huntsville MSA sales data after June 1983 are not directly comparable with earlier data because county designations were changed. The "Statewide" category in the "County" section provides sales figures which are not attributable to individual counties; it does not represent a state total.

Private construction only. May be partially estimated by the Bureau of the Census; the sum of monthly figures may not equal annual total. "Total" construction includes additions and alterations, therefore, is not a sum of residential nonresidential. Quad-Cities and consists of Florence, Muscle Shoals, Sheffield, and Tuscumbia.

Employment Category Added

This issue marks the appearance of a new employment category under the "Labor Force and Employment" heading of the tables. Employment in electrical and electronic machinery manufacturing, previously included in the "Machinery (incl. electrical)" category, has been branched into a separate category. This new category is titled "Electrical, electronic Equip." and appears under the "Machinery (excl. electrical)" category. All data that appear for both these categories reflect the change.

Migration Data Available

For those readers interested in migration of persons to and from Alabama, a group of tables similar to those which appeared in the article "Interstate Migration and Alabama" in the March issue are available from the Alabama State Data Center. The tables present data sorted to depict various aspects of Alabama migration. Interested persons should contact E.P. Rutledge, State Data Center manager, in care of the Center for Business and Economic Research.

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The Economy in Perspective

1982 Census of Agriculture for Alabama

At last, the preliminary reports containing agricultural data from the Census are available for Alabama. Although at present we have only a teasing amount of information, the flow of computer tapes containing detailed summary data and the detailed printed reports themselves should begin shortly. Through this office and the State Data Center Affiliate Network, this important information concerning the agricultural sector will be made available to the people of the state.

The agricultural census, like the business censuses, is taken every five years following calendar years ending in a digit two or seven. The data relate to the year just completed. For census purposes, a farm is defined as "any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year."

For Alabama, that definition yielded a tally of 48,443 farms in 1982, down from 50,780 in 1978. Although the number of farms declined by just under 5.0 percent, the acreage in farms dropped nearly 8.5 percent while the average size of farms dropped only from 220 acres in 1978 to 211 in 1982. Examination of the following table will reveal that the number of farms under 10 acres as well as those under 50 acres increased while the number of farms in all size categories above 50 acres declined.

From the preliminary data, initial examination suggests that the trend in Alabama agriculture is toward both smaller and larger farms. Yes, those in the middle categories of size and sales are shrinking while the two ends are expanding. The number of

farms with sales over \$100,000 in 1982 increased by 559 units with 380 units of that increase among farms with sales in excess of \$250,000. Similarly, there were 458 more units with sales under \$5,000. All intervening categories of sales saw a declining number of units reporting.

Operator tenure is also changing. While the number of full-owner operators increased 136 over 1978, the number of part-owner operators plummeted by 1,666 in 1982. Tenant operator units accounted for 6.8 percent of all units, down from 8.0 percent in 1978.

Of the harvested cropland acreage reported in 1982, 48.7 percent was devoted to growing soybeans. Corn for all purposes utilized 10.6 percent of harvested acreage and cotton continued its decline, accounting for only 9.0 percent of the land harvested.

These and other detailed information about agricultural operations in Alabama and its counties will be available from the 1982 Census of Agriculture. For further information, you may contact either this office: Dr. Joe Molnar, Department of Agricultural Economics & Rural Sociology, Auburn University (205-826-4801); or The Division of Behavioral Science Research, Tuskegee Institute (205-727-8575). And don't forget that many of Alabama's public libraries have very strong government documents sections which are a source of a wealth of federally-generated statistical data on Alabama.

--E. P. Rutledge

Table 1. Farms, Land in Farms, and Land Use: 1982 and 1978

All farms	1982	1978	All farms	1982	1978
Farms.....number.....	48 443	50 780	Land in farms according to use		
Land in farms.....acres.....	10 207 291	11 147 825	Total cropland.....farms.....	41 971	45 443
Average size of farm.....acres.....	211	220	acres.....	5 103 101	5 448 622
Value of land and buildings ¹			Harvested cropland.....farms.....	33 346	37 301
Average per farm.....dollars.....	172 878	138 257	acres.....	3 263 408	3 364 231
Average per acre.....dollars.....	834	630	Cropland used only for pasture or grazing.....farms.....	22 930	25 383
Farms by size			acres.....	1 472 789	1 705 469
1 to 9 acres.....	3 043	2 855	Other cropland.....farms.....	5 812	11 414
10 to 49 acres.....	14 132	13 282	acres.....	366 904	378 922
50 to 179 acres.....	18 276	20 319	Woodland, including woodland pastured.....farms.....	30 050	32 040
180 to 499 acres.....	8 469	9 503	acres.....	3 474 750	3 902 052
500 to 999 acres.....	2 785	3 025	Pastureland and rangeland other than cropland and woodland pastured.....farms.....	10 608	10 123
1,000 to 1,999 acres.....	1 185	1 194	acres.....	1 170 726	1 314 230
2,000 acres or more.....	553	602	Land in house lots, ponds, roads, wasteland, etc.....farms.....	31 942	31 983
			acres.....	458 714	482 921
			Irrigated land.....farms.....	1 036	994
			acres.....	66 093	58 581

¹Data are based on a sample of farms.

SOURCE: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1982 Census of Agriculture, Preliminary Report, Alabama, April 1984.



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